

# The FLAMING JEWEL

by ROBERT W. CHAMBERS  
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## BEGIN HERE TODAY.

The lure of the flaming jewel, that priceless gem stolen from the royal jewel casket of the COUNTESS OF ESTHONIA, was drawing a group of clashing and violent spirits to the "hell's kitchen" of the Adirondacks, the disreputable "hotel" owned by MIKE CLINCH.

Here, Clinch lived a life of crime surrounded by the riff-raff of the north. The only good influence over him was his beautiful step-daughter,

EVE STRAYER. To give her the education of a lady was the sole purpose of Clinch and to do that he would stoop at nothing. There arrived at his hotel,

JAMES DARRAGH, known to Clinch as DEAL SMITH, who has sworn to restore the flaming jewel to the countess, from whom it had been stolen by QUINTANA, the great international thief.

## Go on With the Story.

### EPISODE TWO.

#### The Ruling Passion.

CHAPTER I.  
Nobody understood how Jose Quintana had slipped through the Secret Service net spread for him at every port.

The United States authorities did not know why Quintana had come to America. They realized merely that he arrived for no good purpose, and they had meant to arrest and hold him for extradition if requested, for deportation as an undesirable alien anyway.

Only two men in America knew that Quintana had come to the United States for the purpose of recovering the famous "Flaming Jewel" stolen by him from the Grand Duchess Theodora of Esthonia, in turn by a private soldier in an American Forestry Regiment, on leave in Paris. This soldier's name, probably was Michael Clinch.

One of the men who knew why Quintana might come to America was James Darragh, recently of the Military Intelligence, but now passing as a hold-up man under the name of Hal Smith, and actually in the employment of Clinch at his disreputable "hotel" at Star Pond in the North Woods.

The other man who knew why Quintana had come to America was Emanuel Sard, a Levantine diamond broker of New York, Quintana's agent in America.

Now, as the October days passed without any report of Quintana's detention, Darragh, known as Hal Smith, at Clinch's dump, began to suspect that Quintana had already slid into America through the meshes of the police.

If so, this desperate international criminal could be expected at Clinch's under some guise or other, piloted thither by Emanuel Sard.

So Hal Smith, whose duty was to wash dishes, do chores, and also, to supply Clinch's with "mountain beer"—or deer taken illegally—made it convenient to provide every day in the vicinity of the Ghost Lake Road.

He was perfectly familiar with Emanuel Sard's squat feature, and parrot nose, having robbed Mr. Sard of Quintana's cipher and of \$4000 at pistol point. And one morning, while roving around the dump's quarters at Ghost Lake, Smith beheld Sard himself on the hotel veranda, in company with five strangers of foreign aspect.

During the midday dinner Smith, on pretense of inquiring for a guide's license, got a look at the inn ledger. Sard's signature was on it, followed by the names of Henri Picquet, Nikola Salzar, Victor Georgiades, Harry Beck, and Jose Sanchez. And Smith went back through the wilderness to Star Pond, convinced that one of these gentlemen was Quintana, and the remainder, Quintana's gang; and that they were here to do murder if necessary in their remorseless quest of "The Flaming Jewel." Two million dollars once had been offered for the flaming jewel; and had been refused.

CHAPTER II.  
Clinch's dump was the disposal plant in which collected the human sewage of the wilderness. It being Saturday, the scum of the North Woods was gathering at the Star Pond resort. A venison and chicken supper was promised—and a dance if any women appeared.

Jake Kloon had run in some Canadian hootch; Darragh, alias Hal Smith, contributed two fat deer and Clinch cooked them. By 10 o'clock that morning many of the men were growing noisy; some were already drunk by noon. Shortly after midday dinner the first fight started—extinguished only after Clinch had beaten several of the backwoods aristocracy senseless.

Towering amid the wreck of battle, his light gray eyes a-glitter, Clinch dominated, swinging his iron fists.

When the combat ended and the fallen lay starkly where they fell, Clinch said in his pleasant, level voice:

"Take them out and stick their heads in the pond. And don't go for to get me mad, boys, or I'm liable to set up rough."

They bore forth the sleepers for immersion in Star Pond. Clinch reclined his cigar and repeated the rulings which had caused the fracas.

"You gotta play square cards here or you don't play none in my house. No living thumb-nail can risk no cards in my place and get away with it. Three kings and two aces is better than three chickens and two eggs. If you don't like it, I can show you."

He went out in his shirt sleeves to see how the knock-outs were.

Living, and met Hal Smith returning from the pond, who reported progress toward consciousness. They walked back to the "hotel" together.

"Say, young fella," said Clinch in his soft, agreeable way, "you want to keep your eye peeled to-night?"

"Why?" inquired Smith.

"Well, there'll be a lot o' folks here. There'll be strangers, too. Don't forget the State Troopers are looking for you."

They had paused on the rough veranda in the hot October sunshine.

"Mike," suggested Smith carelessly, "wouldn't it pay you better to go straight?"

Clinch's small gray eyes, which had been roaming over the prospect of lake and forest, focused on Smith's smiling features.

"What's that to you?" he asked. "I'll be out of a job," remarked Smith, laughing, "if they ever land you."

Clinch's level gaze measured him; his mind was busy measuring him, too.

"What's the hell are you, anyway?" he asked. "I don't know. You stuck up a man on the Ghost Lake Road and hide out here when the State Troopers come after you. And now you ask me if it pays better to go straight. Why didn't you go straight if you think it pays?"

"I haven't got a daughter to worry about," explained Smith. "If they get me it won't hurt anybody else."

His dull red tongue came out under Clinch's tan.

"Who asked you to worry about Eve?"

"She's a fine girl; that's all." Clinch's steely glare measured the young man.

"You trying to make up to her?"

"No, she has no use for me." Clinch reflected, his cold tiger-gaze still fastened on Smith.

"You're right," he said after a moment. "Eve is a good girl. Some day I'll make a lady of her."

"She is one, Clinch."

At that Clinch reddened heavily—the first finer emotion overtrayed before Smith. He'd not say anything for a few moments, but his grim mouth worked.

Finally:

"I guess you was a gentleman once before you went crooked. Hal?" he said. "You act up like you once was—Sard's there's only one thing on God's earth I care about. You've guessed it, too."

He was off again upon his ruling passion.

"Eve," nodded Smith.

"Sure. She isn't my flesh and blood. But it seems like she's more even. I want she should be a lady. It's all I want. That damned millionaire Harrod bust me. But he couldn't stop me giving Eve her schooling. And now

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all I'm living for is to be fired so I can give her money to go to the city like a lady. I don't care how I make money, all I want is to make it. And I'm a going to."

Smith nodded again.

Clinch, now obsessed by his monomania, went on with an oath: "I can't make no money on the level after what Harrod done to me. And I gotta fix up Eve. What the hell do you mean 'by asking me would it pay me to travel straight I dunno."

"I was only thinking of Eve. A lady isn't supposed to have a crook for a father."

Clinch's gray eyes blazed for a moment, then their menacing glare died, then into wintry flinty.

"I want born a crook," he said. "I ain't got no choice. And don't worry, young fella; they ain't a-going to get me."

"You can't go on beating the game forever, Clinch."

"I'm beating it—" he hesitated—"and it won't be so long, neither, before I turn over enough to let Eve live in the city like any lady, with her automobile and her own butler and all her swell friends in a big house like she is educated for."

He broke off abruptly as a procession approached from the lake, escorting the battered gentry who now were able to wobble about a little.

One of them, a fox-faced tramp thief named Earl Leverett, slunk hastily by as though expecting another kick from Clinch.

"G'wan inside, Earl, and act up right," said Clinch pleasantly. "You oughta have more sense than to start a fight in my place—you and Sid Home and Harvey Chase. G'wan in and behave."

He and Smith followed the procession of damaged ones into the house.

The big unpainted room where a bar had once been was blue with cheap cigar smoke; the air reeked with the stench of beer and spirits. A score or more shambling, forest louts in their dingy Saturday finery were gathered there, playing cards, shooting craps, jolling around tables and tilting stopping glasses at one another.

Heavy pleasanties were exchanged with the victims of Clinch's ponderous fists as they re-entered the room from which they had been borne so recently, feet first.

"Now, boys," said Clinch kindly, "act up like swell gents and behave friendly. And if any ladies come in for the chicken supper, why, go dang it, we'll have a dance!"

(Continued in Our Next Issue)

CONVEYER DESTROYED

A fire of unknown origin yesterday completely destroyed the conveyor house at the slack bins at mine No. 43 of the Consolidation Coal Co., at Monongah, with a loss of about \$6,000.

The conveyor house and the conveyor, a valuable piece of machinery were completely destroyed. The fire started at 3:30 o'clock and because of the lack of water was soon beyond control.

Coach J. F. Copp of the high school football team and the squad met yesterday afternoon and laid off a playing field in preparation for the game which is to be played here Saturday, October 11, against the strong Farmington eleven. Farmington has always been a respected rival in basketball and in most cases made the local boys go the limit to win. Coach Copp is taking no chances on the gridiron contest to be staged next week and is driving his men daily through stiff practice. This will be Fairview's first game on the home grounds.

## PICTURES BOOKED FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Fairview Basketball Team to Be Without Services of Abe Wilson, Center.

FAIRVIEW, Oct. 5.—The high school moving picture management has booked its screen productions for the fall season, the first picture to be shown in the high school auditorium Thursday night, October 19, beginning at 8 o'clock. According to an announcement made yesterday morning the picture to be shown the first evening will be "Sentimental Tommy," which has been screened from James Barrie's famous novel of that name. This picture is said to be the best screened version of any novel published in several years and will not only be of interest to the high school boys and girls, but many grown ups in the community. The picture will be shown for one night only and is expected to draw the largest crowd of the season. Other pictures to be shown are: "Please One Woman," October 26; "Something to Think About," November 2; "Conrad in Quest of Youth," November 9; "Always Audacious," November 16; "Inside the Cup," November 23; "The Village Slough," November 30, and "Heliopole," December 7.

Beginning next Tuesday night and running weekly, the high school management will run the screen version of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" in serial. Added attraction to all shows will be the weekly magazine pictures.

Lecture Course Announced. The attractions for the lecture course for Fairview High School have been announced for the year, but so far the company has not sent out the dates for the programs. Six members have been booked: "The Bonnie Lassies," "Singers and Players Club," "H. W. Sears," "Albert Fraser," "Argus the Magician" and "The Continental Trio." The dates will be announced as soon as received by the management.

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Through the efforts of Mayor S. T. Barr, work on improving and paving Fairview's streets goes on. Ballast is being put on Burns street between Main and School streets which will be covered with cinders for the winter to make it passable for all year and plans are being made to add concrete to this sometime next summer. The sidewalk along the street will be repaired soon to make it safe for the school children who are compelled to use this street in getting to and from school daily.

Chapel in Church. The Fairview High School teachers and students are laboring under a handicap this year in lack of rooms for class room instruction. The state tax commissioner's refusal to allow the board of education to lay a sufficient levy to take care of the building situation this year because of influence brought to bear by outside interests and what is termed locally as "his play to the gallery," has necessitated Fairview using four buildings, four class rooms and assembly halls, namely, the school building, the hotel, the gymnasium and the Southern Methodist Church. Chapel was held in the church yesterday morning with practically every seat filled in the large auditorium and the student body listened eagerly to an address made by President W. D. Yost of the local school board on the subject, "Success Under Difficulties." Mr. Yost knows and is known by every school boy and girl in the district and is much respected because of his interest and work in bettering school conditions.

Abbe Wilson Better. Abe Wilson, who for the past three years has made an enviable record as an all-round high school athlete, starring in baseball, basketball and track, but who for several weeks has been suffering from an attack of typhoid fever, is reported to be improving rapidly, although his physician reports that he will be unable to take part in any athletics before the second semester of school. His loss to the basketball team will be the most keenly felt for at no time during his playing with the local high school team did he meet an opposing center who could match him for the pivotal position. The local team will not, however, be without a center this season, as Dodd, Underwood and O'Dell all tower above the six foot mark, and all have had more or less experience in this position.

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and a large crowd is expected to see the contest.

Abbe Wilson Better. Abe Wilson, who for the past three years has made an enviable record as an all-round high school athlete, starring in baseball, basketball and track, but who for several weeks has been suffering from an attack of typhoid fever, is reported to be improving rapidly, although his physician reports that he will be unable to take part in any athletics before the second semester of school. His loss to the basketball team will be the most keenly felt for at no time during his playing with the local high school team did he meet an opposing center who could match him for the pivotal position. The local team will not, however, be without a center this season, as Dodd, Underwood and O'Dell all tower above the six foot mark, and all have had more or less experience in this position.

Streets Improved. Through the efforts of Mayor S. T. Barr, work on improving and paving Fairview's streets goes on. Ballast is being put on Burns street between Main and School streets which will be covered with cinders for the winter to make it passable for all year and plans are being made to add concrete to this sometime next summer. The sidewalk along the street will be repaired soon to make it safe for the school children who are compelled to use this street in getting to and from school daily.

Chapel in Church. The Fair